

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS  
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Lloyd Street Synagogue

AND/OR COMMON

Lloyd Street Synagogue

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

11 Lloyd Street

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

VICINITY OF

Third

STATE

Maryland

CODE

024

COUNTY

Baltimore City

CODE

510

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☒ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Dr. Moses Aberbach, The Jewish Historical Society of Md., Inc.

STREET &amp; NUMBER

5800 Park Heights Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland 21215

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Records Office, Room 601

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

STATE

Maryland 21202

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Baltimore City Landmark List

DATE

1977

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☒ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore,

STATE

Maryland 21202

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Lloyd Street Synagogue was begun in 1845 and restored in the early 1960's. Bilateral symmetry and simplicity of design define the Greek Revival building which characteristically features fluted Greek Doric columns supporting a portico, a low pitched roof and trabeated windows. Of particular note is a round stained glass window with a Star of David design, said to be the first on any exterior in America.

The American common bond brick building rests on a coarse stone foundation trimmed by a granite sill. Narrow alleys flank the north and south facades, giving access to the basement. Five windows with doors at the westernmost bays fill each basement wall and are symmetrical with the trabeated windows above.

Seven stone steps lead to the shallow portico. Four granite piers extend out from the western facade, serving as bases for four fluted, plastered Doric columns which support a Doric pediment with guttae, triglyphs and mutules. The lathed and plastered porch ceiling is coffered.

The original central entrance is flanked by two smaller doorways added in 1860. Severe wood surrounds dignify all three doors. Each entrance holds a pair of four-panel, wooden doors and a four-panel, wooden transom surmounts the middle door.

A round, leaded glass window nearly level with the architrave and outside the pediment accents the west facade. Under the pediment, surmounting the main door, is a triple window with a shallow-arched lintel. These windows light the vestibule behind the balcony. A shallow gabled parapet wall conceals a low pitched roof.

The six bay wide north and south facades are defined by six shallow brick frames which hold rectangular double hung windows with 4/4 lights. Recessed rectangular panels below the stone sills accent the lower section of the frames, which extend to the water table. Molded brick cornices finish each top. A perimetric brick string course above the windows relieves the vertical lines of the facades, as does a simple cornice crowning the low-pitched roof.

Three stained glass round windows fill the upper section of the eastern facade. The central window bears a Star of David in the center of which is a Grecian Corinthian acanthus. The interspaces are filled with leaves. The flanking windows hold eight-point star patterns.

The front and south facades are protected by fences and gates. The center gate and the fence along the south wall have simple wrought iron work.

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Lloyd Street Synagogue  
Baltimore City,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1

DESCRIPTION (continued)

The unassuming features of Greek Revival architecture are also repeated on the restored interior. Two crystal chandeliers (now electrified) added in 1860 hang from the high ceiling. Balustraded balconies, built to separate male and female worshippers, run the length of the synagogue, receiving light from gas lanterns which rest on slender poles. The balconies are supported on cast iron fluted posts which divide the wooden stall pews. The latter are arranged around a raised central reading platform with railings identical to those in the balcony.

Entrance is obtained through a shallow vestibule separated by a plastered partition. Opposing enclosed stairwells lead to the balconies and to the basement. The east wall thrusts out into a bow to accommodate the Ark, a two-stepped structure resembling a Greek portico which contains one or more Torahs. Gilded Corinthian pillars and pilasters carry a pedimented entablature accented by modillions. Gilded detailing enhances the three panel doors and a representation of Moses' stone tablets saddles the apex.

The basement is divided into several simple rooms with chair railing trim and fascia cornices. One of the rooms has been converted into a small museum and the surfaces above the chair rails are faced with pegboard to facilitate exhibit changes. Wooden exhibit cases line the walls.

A second room retains its original function as a hall for daily worship. An unadorned wooden reading desk stands before rough hewn pews. Several book cases stand against the walls.

The original 1845 oven for baking matzos is also in the basement, as are three ritual baths or mikvehs of ceramic tile.

## 8 SIGNIFICANCE

B-20

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1845 with 1860 addition BUILDER/ARCHITECT Robert Cary Long Jr., and William Reasin

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Baltimore Hebrew Congregation was incorporated on January 29, 1830, and was the first Jewish congregation to be chartered in the state. The congregation worshipped in several second floor storefronts until the early 1840's, when its members were affluent enough to build the Lloyd Street Synagogue, the first synagogue built in Maryland.

The Lloyd Street Synagogue, a late example of Greek Revival architecture, was designed in 1841 by Robert Carey Long, Jr. (1810-1849). Long's first commission, the St. Alphonsus Roman Catholic Church (1842) established his reputation as one of Baltimore's leading architects. St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, dedicated in 1843, the Franklin Street Presbyterian Church (1844), and Mount Calvary Episcopal Church was also designed by Mr. Long.

The synagogue cost \$20,000 to complete. Massrs, Curly and Sons were the builders. They received \$3,256 for their work.

Abraham Rice, who had emigrated from Germany in 1840, was the first rabbi of Lloyd Street. It is believed that he was the first ordained rabbi to serve in any congregation in the United States.

By 1860 the congregation had so increased in size as to necessitate the construction of a thirty foot extension. Another local architect, William H. Reasin, of Reasin and Weatherald, designed the renovation which preserved all the old features of the synagogue. In addition, two smaller doors were added to the entrance, and the interior received two large gas chandeliers and a new Ark. Reasin received \$250.00 for his work. Mr. Reasin was the architect of the campinile on the Number Six Engine House (1853) at Gay and Ensor Streets and the Shoemaker residence, 901 St. Paul Street.

An interplay of urban blight and differences in religious ideologies convinced several members of the congregation to move "Uptown" in 1891 to Madison Avenue and Robert Streets, a more fashionable location. There they built a large Byzantine style synagogue designed by Charles L. Carson (National Register, 11/76).

The Lloyd Street Synagogue was sold to a Lithuanian Roman Catholic Congregation and renamed the Church of St. John the Baptist. It was



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Baltimore City,

CONTINUATION SHEET Maryland ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2

STATE OF SIGNIFICANCE (continued)

returned to its original use in 1905, when it was purchased by the Jewish congregation of Shomrei Mishmereth Hokodesh, the Guardians of the Sacred Heritage.

This group of new immigrants followed the Sephardic ritual of Hassidism. Their rabbi, Abraham N. Schwartz, was a famed Talmudic scholar who in 1917 founded the Talmudical Academy of Baltimore.

The congregation remained stable until the late 1950's when only a few members remained in the neighborhood. The possible demolition of Lloyd Street, for a parking lot, attracted the attention of Wilber Hunter, director of the Peale Museum. Mr. Hunter was instrumental in alerting the Jewish community of Baltimore, who organized a committee to study the possibility of preserving the building. As a result, the Jewish Historical Society was formed. Guided by Dr. Issac Fein, the Society secured an option to purchase the building. On Sunday, November 8, 1964, the Synagogue was rededicated. The Ark of 1860 was restored and all of the original 1845 interior was retained. The gas chandeliers and balcony lamps were electrified.

The Lloyd Street Synagogue became a Baltimore City Landmark by City Ordinance 971 on January 11, 1971.

The neighborhood surrounding the Synagogue boasts an abundance of historic structures, the Mckim Free School, the Flag House, and the Carroll Mansion, which support the historic and architectural character of the Lloyd Street Synagogue, a symbol of Baltimore's Jewish heritage.

## 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

B-20

- Hunter, Wilbur. "Historic American Buildings Survey: Lloyd Street Synagogues." (Baltimore, 1959).  
Stanton, Phoebe. The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture. (Baltimore, 1968).  
Tobak, Israel. "The Lloyd Street Synagogue of Baltimore: A National Shrine." (Baltimore, 1964).

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one acre

UTM REFERENCES

A 

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3	6	1	9	2	4
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ZONE

EASTING

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C

B 

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ZONE

EASTING

NORTHING

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michele LeFaivre, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation 1976

STREET & NUMBER

100 N. Holliday Street

DATE

TELEPHONE

(301) 396-4866

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_

LOCAL \_\_\_\_

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

# MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

B-20

- Hunter, Wilbur. "Historic American Buildings Survey: Lloyd Street Synagogues." (Baltimore, 1959).  
 Stanton, Phoebe. "The Gothic Revival and American Church Architecture." (Baltimore, 1968).  
 Tobak, Israel. "The Lloyd Street Synagogue of Baltimore: A National Shrine." (Baltimore, 1964).

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UTM REFERENCES

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 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D                    
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

## FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michele LeFaivre, Planning Assistant

ORGANIZATION

Commission for Historic and Architectural Preservation 1976

STREET & NUMBER

100 N. Holliday Street

DATE

TELEPHONE

(301) 396-4866

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

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NATIONAL   

STATE X

LOCAL   

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

*John N. Pearce*

DATE

*11/30/77*

TITLE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Lloyd Street Synagogue  
B-20






# Easement

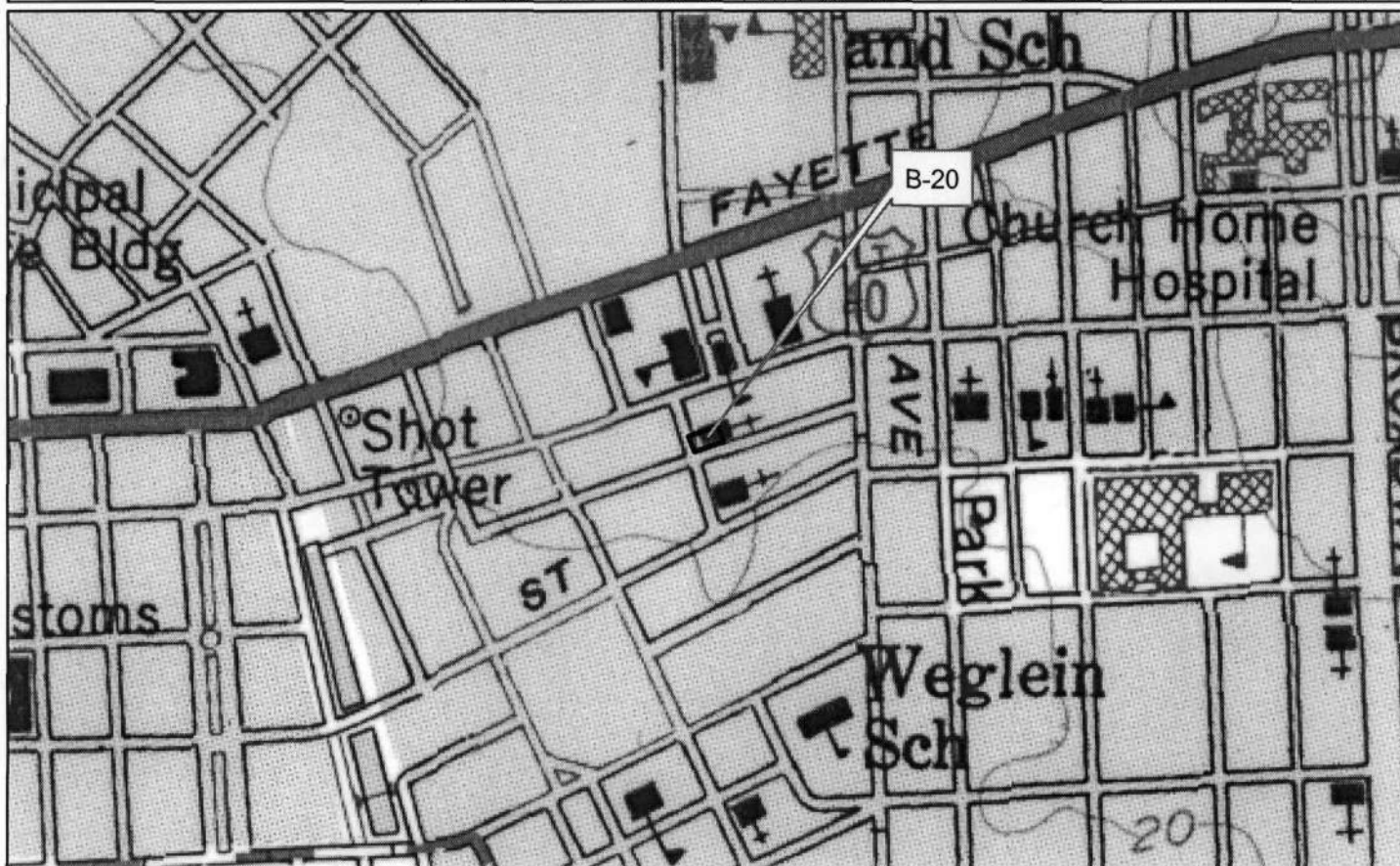
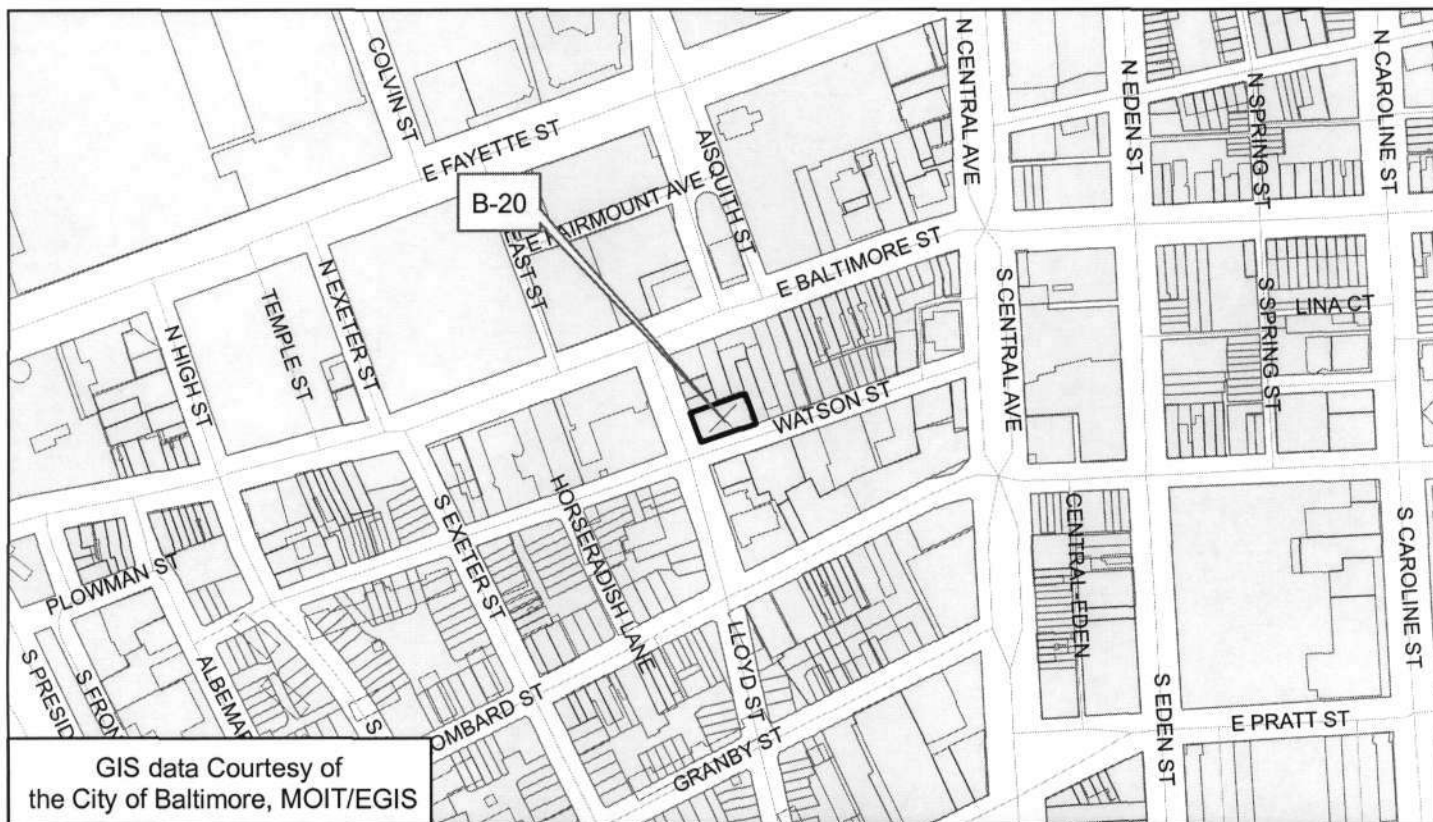
MAGI #0400202409

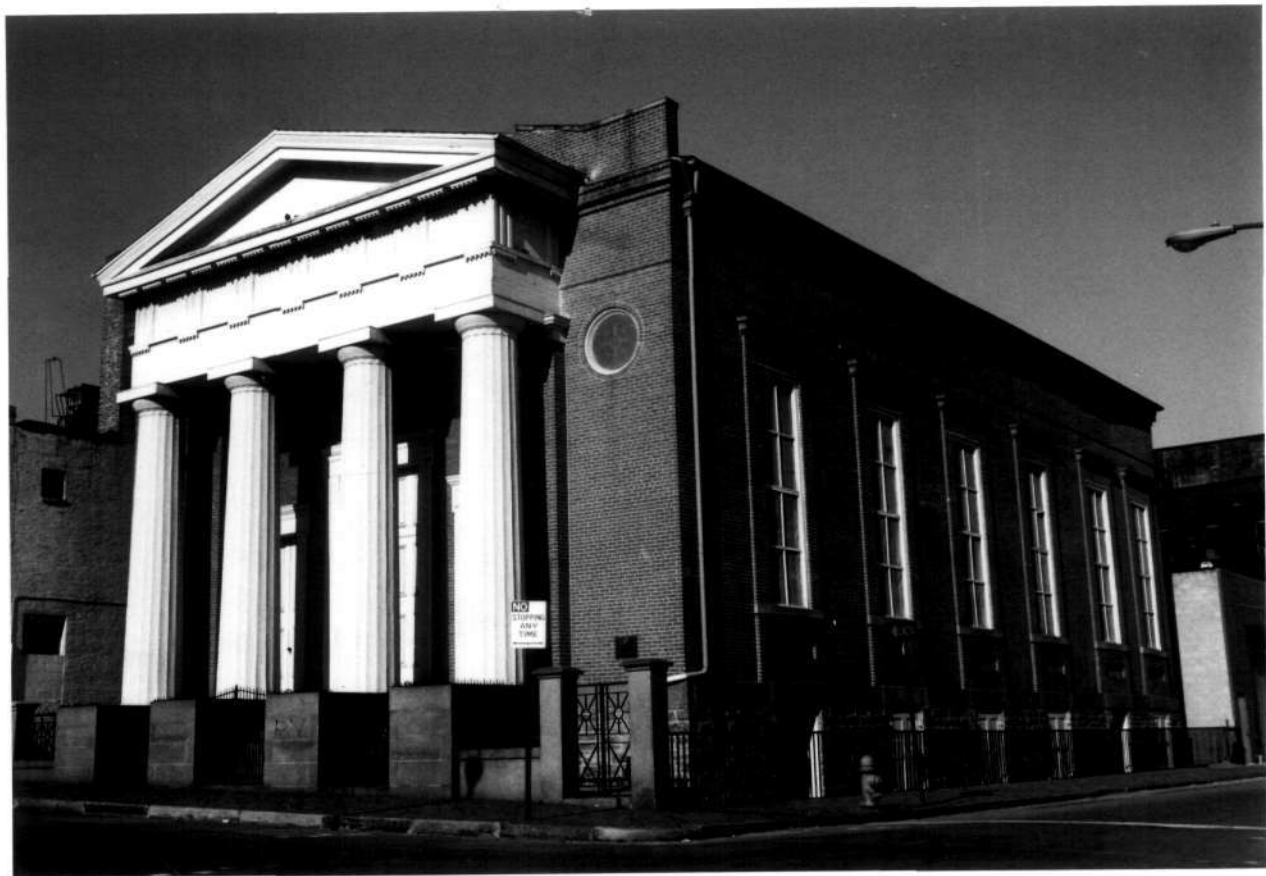
0020

1. STATE Maryland COUNTY Baltimore County TOWN Baltimore City STREET NO. Lloyd and Watson Streets 11 Lloyd St. ORIGINAL OWNER Baltimore Hebrew Congregation ORIGINAL USE Religious PRESENT OWNER Jewish Historical Society of Md. PRESENT USE Historical Monument WALL CONSTRUCTION Brick NO. OF STORIES		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY B-20 2. NAME Lloyd Street Synagogue DATE OR PERIOD 1845 STYLE Classic Revival ARCHITECT R. C. Long BUILDER 3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION			
<p>OPEN TO PUBLIC</p> <p>The Synagogue was the first church of the Hebrew faith built in Maryland and was the third to be built in the United States. The brick building is three bays wide and six bays deep. It rests on a stone foundation and the side elevation windows are within a panel slightly projecting from the wall. Over the three entrance doors is a Doric porch with full entablature. There is molded stone trim around the doors. On each side of the porch are circular windows which light the balcony. The building has recently been restored to the appearance of 1860. It retains much of its original fence, steps and interior woodwork.</p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE    Endangered    Interior Very Good    Exterior Very Good			
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div>          6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)       </div> <div>         7. PHOTOGRAPH       </div> </div>			
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER Michael O. Bourne Maryland Historical Trust DATE OF RECORD March 19, 1968	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

B-20  
Lloyd Street Synagogue  
11 Lloyd Street  
Block 1362 Lot 001  
Baltimore City  
Baltimore East Quad.





LLOYD ST. SYNAGOGUE- B-20

~~B'NAI ISRAEL~~

LLOYD & WATSON STS,

2/77



LLOYD STREET SYNAGOGUE

11 Lloyd Street

1845

Architect: Robert Cary Long, Jr.

Designed in the Greek Revival style by Robert Cary Long, Jr. and dedicated in 1845, this is the first synagogue erected in Maryland and the third oldest in the country, preceded only by the Touro Synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island and Beth Elohim (1841) in Charleston, South Carolina. As the population shifted, the congregation dwindled and the building was put to other uses. It had a Lithuanian Roman Catholic congregation from 1880 to 1890. When it was about to be demolished in 1960, the Jewish Historical Society purchased and restored the synagogue as a museum. Many of the original features of the building still remain, including the wooden pews, women's balcony, the cast iron fence and the blue and white cuspidors. Ritual baths as well as ovens for baking Passover bread survive in the basement.

Deed ref: JFC 1438/102

Lot size: 63'x 100'

Wd: 3      Sec: 3

Blk. 1362      Lot: 1

Owner: Jewish Historical Society of Maryland, Inc.